

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 01591 271041Z

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5898

S E C R E T CAIRO 1591

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC AID

1. FAHMY ASKED ME TO CALL LAST NIGHT. HE SAID THAT, AS WE DOUBTLESS KNOW, A SOVIET ECONOMIC DELEGATION HAS BEEN HERE FOR THE PAST THREE WEEKS. EGYPTIANS HAVE SOUGHT FROM THE SOVIETS CERTAIN WHAT HE CALLED "VITAL GOODS" URGENTLY REQUIRED BY THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY. THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAS BEEN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. IN FAHMY'S VIEW, THE SOVIETS ARE ATTEMPTING TO USE ECONOMIC AID TO PRESSURE THE GOE TO RE-ADOPT A MORE PRO-SOVIET POLITICAL STANCE. SPECIFICALLY, HE BELIEVES THE SOVIETS ARE USING THREAT OF WITHHOLDING NEEDED ECONOMIC AID TO COERCE EGYPT INTO ACQUIESCING IN A GREATER SOVIET ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS.

2. SADAT, FAHMY CONTINUED, IS DETERMINED NOT TO ALLOW THIS. THE PRESIDENT HAD THEREFORE ASKED THAT HE REQUEST UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HELP IN OBTAINING THESE SO-CALLED "VITAL GOODS." FAHMY SUGGESTED THEY EITHER BE GIVEN AS A "DONATION" OR AS A "LOAN." SADAT IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE SOME RESPONSE ASAP AS TO WHAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO DO TO HELP. FAHMY MADE A STRONG PLEA THAT OUR RESPONSE BE POSITIVE AND SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT THIS REQUEST BE BROUGHT TO THE SECRETARY'S ATTENTION.

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3. CITED BELOW IS A LIST OF ITEMS WHICH GOE
NEEDS, QUANTITIES AND ESTIMATED VALUE, AS GIVEN ME BY FAHMY:

| ITEM | PERIOD OF CONSUMPTION | QUANTITY NEEDED | VALUE MILLION U.S.\$ |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|

| | | | |
|--|----------|--------------|----|
| YELLOW DENT CORN, GRADE NO. 2 OR BETTER, U.S.A. STANDARD | 9 MONTHS | 500,000 TONS | 90 |
|--|----------|--------------|----|

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------|---|
| EDIBLE FAT BEEF TALLOW | 12 MONTHS | 10,000 TONS | 6 |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------|---|

| | | | |
|--|----------|--------|----|
| INEDIBLE FANTY TALLOW OR INEDIBLE EXTRA FANTY TALLOW | 6 MONTHS | 50,000 | 29 |
|--|----------|--------|----|

| | | | |
|--|----------|--------|----|
| PRIME BLEACHIBLE SUMMER YELLOW COTTON SEED OIL, RULE 162 | 6 MONTHS | 75,000 | 60 |
|--|----------|--------|----|

| | | | |
|---|--------|----|--|
| NEW PRINT PAPER & PRINT AND WRITING PAPER | 50,000 | 24 | |
|---|--------|----|--|

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---|--|
| ARTIFICIAL LEATHERS "M SQUARE" | 6,000,000 | - | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---|--|

| | | | |
|---|---|-----|--|
| GRAIN EVACUATORS |) | | |
|) | | | |
| SPARE PARTS FOR THE EXISTING GRAIN EVACUATORS |) | 1.5 | |
|) | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------|---|----|--|
| BEACH WOOD |) | | |
|) | | | |
| PLY WOOD |) | 25 | |
|) | | | |
| AFRICAN WOOD |) | | |
|) | | | |
| VENEERS |) | | |
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| | | | |
|----------------|---|----|--|
| TOBACCO LEAVES |) | 10 | |
|----------------|---|----|--|

| | | | |
|-------|----------------|--|--|
| WHEAT | 1,000,000 TONS | | |
| EILTS | | | |

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